

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the present application. Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 10, 12, 24, 26, 28 and 30. With entry of this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 3, 4, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24 and 28, cancel claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 19, 21, 23 and 27 without prejudice and add new claims 31-34.

Applicants have placed claim 10 in independent form and have canceled claim 9 from which claim 10 depended. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 is in condition for allowance.

Applicants have placed claim 12 in independent form and have canceled claim 11 from which claim 12 depended. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 12 is in condition for allowance.

Applicants have placed claim 24 in independent form and have canceled claim 23 from which claim 24 depended. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 24 and its dependent claim 26 are in condition for allowance.

Applicants have placed claim 28 in independent form and have canceled claim 27 from which claim 28 depended. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 28 and its dependent claim 30 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kizaki et al. (US 6303852). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention in one embodiment is directed to a tone generation apparatus with a slot for a plug-in board. The embodiment allows at least one of set of all tone color name information and a set of all tone parameter name information to be stored in a nonvolatile memory of the tone generation apparatus. The information is thus stored in the apparatus without regard to any specific tone color selection or parameter edit. This is advantageous, because the apparatus does not need to request information from the plug-in board for each selection or editing event,

thereby allowing the apparatus to obtain and display the information promptly. The embodiment also only replaces the information stored in the nonvolatile memory when the plug-in board has changed. This permits a quick startup of the tone generation apparatus upon power-on if the plug-in board has not changed.

Kizaki is directed to a musical tone synthesizing apparatus that can receive an external sound board. Upon power-on, the apparatus detects the installation of the sound board by determining whether a detected voltage coincides with a predetermined voltage. If it does, this corresponds to a non-installation condition. If it does not, an installation has occurred, and the apparatus begins the process of obtaining the data from the sound board (see Col. 10, lines 3-49 and Fig. 6). This process is repeated for each power-on event -- regardless of whether the installed board is a different one or the same one. For example, if the *same* board is installed for two successive power-on events, the apparatus will go through the steps of Fig. 6 twice and transfer the same data twice.

In contrast, an embodiment of the present invention can detect whether a plug-in board has been *replaced* and, upon detection, transfers data to the newly added plug-in board. If the same board is installed for two-successive power-on events, there is no transfer of data on the second power-on event because the board has not been replaced. Thus, Kizaki fails to disclose a detector that detects "whether a plug-in board replacement" has taken place and an updating processing section that updates stored contents "possessed by another plug-in board newly attached to said tone generation apparatus."

Furthermore, Kizaki is merely directed to an apparatus that is enabled to provide automatic addition of parts in response to extended tone colors installed through a sound board (see Col. 3, lines 20-43). The user can select the tone colors for the additional parts by first designating the additional parts (see Col. 10, lines 65-67 and Fig. 7) and then selecting an extended tone color for each of the additional parts from the stored tone colors (see Col. 11, lines 26-33). Kizaki, however, fails to disclose that the nonvolatile memory of the apparatus is capable of storing "at least one of a set of all tone color name information and a set of all tone parameter name information of all tone color data" possessed by the sound-board. There is no disclosure in Kizaki that such a set of

information is stored in the apparatus. As a result, Kizaki further fails to disclose a display that “displays tone color names” or “displays tone color parameter names” based on the stored information. This is particularly advantageous, because it obviates the need to have the apparatus inquire the board about such information for each selection or edit event. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and its dependent claim 2 are not anticipated by or obvious in view of Kizaki.

Applicants also respectfully submit that claim 13, as amended, and its dependent claim 14 are not anticipated by or obvious in view of Kizaki for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

The Examiner rejected claims 3, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kizaki. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

One embodiment of the present invention allows for editing tone colors from the plug-in board. The editing is achieved by adding desired modification data to tone color data of each tone color. The desired modification data is prestored in the tone generation apparatus. The tone color data stored in the plug-in board is thus not modified at all during the editing process. Once a given tone color is selected, the tone color number and modification data of the given tone color data (if edited) are transferred to the plug-in board.

In contrast, Kizaki discloses merely storing the extended tone color data into a memory within the plug-in board (see Col. 11, lines 64-67). It does not disclose “adding desired modification data to tone color data of the tone color possessed by said plug-in board, the desired modification data being prestored in said tone generation apparatus” as recited in amended claim 3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Kizaki does not anticipate or render obvious claim 3.

Applicants also respectfully submit that claim 15, as amended, and its dependent claim 16 are not anticipated by or obvious in view of Kizaki for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 3.

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The Examiner rejected claims 4, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kizaki. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 4, as amended, recites “a supply section that supplies tempo clock information to said plug-in board attached to said tone generation apparatus, whereby said plug-in board is allowed to generate a tone in synchronism with the tempo clock information supplied by said supply section.” Kizaki fails to disclose this recited feature of claim 4.

The Examiner cited Hiramatsu at Col. 8, lines 28-63 for disclosing the above recited feature. The citation was for claim 5, which has been cancelled without prejudice (see Page 7 of the Office Action). Hiramatsu discloses that the CPU 101 merges the MIDI signal generated by the mother board 100 with the MIDI signal by the plug-in boards 191 through 199 after timing adjustment. In contrast, the present invention merges the performance information from a storage device and from an outside source for output through plug-in boards. Such a merger delivered to a plug-in board is not achievable with Hiramatsu. As disclosed in Col. 8, lines 37-39, the only signal delivered to the plug-in board is the same signal delivered to the mother board. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 4 is not anticipated by or obvious in view of Kizaki or Hiramatsu.

Applicants also respectfully submit that claim 17, as amended, and its dependent claim 18 are not anticipated by or obvious in view of Kizaki or Hiramatsu for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 4.

Applicants also respectfully submit that new claims 31 and 33 and dependent claim 20 which has been amended to depend from claim 33 are not anticipated by or obvious in view of Kizaki or Hiramatsu for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 4.

Finally, one embodiment of the present invention allows for tone color data and IDs of the plug-in boards to be stored in a memory in association with individual slots. Claim 32 recites “a nonvolatile memory capable of storing, in association with the plurality of slots, tone color data of custom voices stored in said plug-in boards attached to the respective slots and board identification of said plug-in boards” Kizaki fails to disclose any such association of data and ID with individual slots. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 32 is not anticipated by or obvious in view of Kizaki.

Applicants also respectfully submit that claim 34 and dependent claim 22 which has been amended to depend from claim 34 is not anticipated by or obvious in view of Kizaki for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 32.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims at an early date is respectfully requested.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 393032027700. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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